



Telling You How Things Are in Western Canada Answers to Some Questions You May Wish to Ask

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Handbook of the Prairie Provinces and any further information will be cheerfully furnished on request.

M. E. THORNTON Supt. of Colonization, CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY,
Dept. Colonization and Development, Calgary, Alberta

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Where are the Canadian Pacific Railway lands?

In Western Canada throughout the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

What kind of land is it?

The land is mostly prairie, either level or rolling, and can be secured free from timber if desired. The soil is, generally speaking, the very best alluvial black or chocolate loam from one to two feet deep with good clay subsoil. The subsoil is heavy and retains the moisture. The top soil contains a little sand, which gives warmth that germinates and matures grain very rapidly. In a great many places there is plenty of timber and in other places it is underlaid with good coal.

What is the condition of the surface?

It is just rolling enough to give it good drainage. It is generally free from stones, weeds and objectionable growths. In many places native grass grows luxuriantly and can be cut for hay for winter feeding. You can find, if you desire it, land with a growth of small trees and brush very desirable as shelter for cattle, both in summer and in winter.

Is this land from which timber has been cleared?

No. It is virgin prairie land. There is more or less timber along all streams, and this can be cut for building, fencing, etc.

Have these lands ever been farmed?

No. They are virgin lands. All their original fertility and richness await your plow. Adjoining land of the same character has in many instances been farmed for years without the use of fertilizers.

Is there sufficient rainfall?

Yes; a sufficient supply can generally be relied upon. The most rain falls in May and June, just when it is most needed.

Is water easily obtainable?

Good water is generally found in most localities and is struck at depths varying from fifteen to forty-five feet. On many farms you will find lakes or springs which provide plenty of water for man and stock.

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A Typical Farm Scene in Western Canada—Showing a Good Crop



Buy Your Land DIRECT from the Canadian Pacific

About Crops Raised

How is the land for grain raising?

It is the finest wheat land in the world. Crops of 30 to 50 bushels of wheat are often secured. Oats run as high as 115 bushels, flax 20 bushels and barley 60 bushels.

How is it for stock raising?

The land is unequalled for this purpose. Horses, cattle, sheep and hogs thrive on the nutritious native grasses and wild pea vines. Stock is often placed on the market without having been grain fed and brings the highest prices. Cattle range the prairies practically all winter with only such shelter as nature affords.



Garden Vegetables Flourish

Do vegetables thrive there, and if so, what kinds are raised?

Yes, potatoes, turnips, carrots, beets, onions, parsnips, cabbage, peas, beans, celery, pumpkins, tomatoes, etc., are unequalled anywhere.

Can fruit be raised in Western Canada and what varieties?

Small fruits grow wild. Among those cultivated are apples, especially crab apples, plums, cherries, cranberries, strawberries, red and black currants, gooseberries, raspberries, etc. Fruits of the smaller varieties are most successful.

How is the country for hay and forage crops?

The natural prairie grasses cure standing and make splendid hay. In many parts there is wild hay on vacant land which may be rented at a low price if you have not enough hay on your own farm. Timothy, alfalfa and other cultivated grasses grow successfully and give large yields.

Does dairying flourish in Western Canada?

The Dominion Government recognizes the country as well adapted to dairying as even the states of Iowa and Wisconsin, which are the best for this industry in the United States. To induce settlers to follow dairying it is building and operating creameries in which only a small amount is charged for making butter for the farmers. This gives the dairyman the full value of his cream and the market price is increased, as the butter bears the government stamp of guaranteed trade. With a herd of only five good dairy cows a man can make a fair sum monthly from his cream alone and the skimmed milk would be a valuable product for feeding hogs and calves.

What about poultry?

The climate is ideal for poultry raising and the markets bring prices averaging higher than in the United States. You would find plenty of buyers near your farm for all the turkeys, chickens, eggs, etc., you could produce.

What class of farming do you recommend to a man of limited means?

Mixed farming, which would include the raising of some grain and forage crops, vegetables, poultry, dairying and dairy and beef cattle, hogs, sheep and horses. Mixed farming assures you an income from the start and is a safe and profitable investment.

How do the settlers usually begin to farm?

They usually break part of their land to raise wheat, barley, oats and flax. They allow dairy and beef cattle, sheep and hogs to range over the unbroken areas, as they thrive on the natural grasses, wild pea vines, etc., and provide an income from the start. Poultry and garden vegetables

also provide a means of making money from the very beginning. Many settlers put in flax as their first crop, as it does well on land which has not been as thoroughly worked as is necessary for successful wheat growing.

About General Conditions

What kind of climate is it?

The summer days are warm and the nights cool and refreshing. The fall and spring are most delightful, although it may be said that winter breaks almost into summer and the latter lasts until October. Winters are cold but bracing, livable, healthful and enjoyable. Invalids are frequently sent there for the benefit of the dry, bracing air.

What is the duration of the winter?

Snow begins to fall about the middle of November and in March there is generally very little. Near the Rocky Mountains the snowfall is not so heavy as farther east. A warm wind called the "Chinook wind" modulates the temperature intermittently. Nature has generously provided for every mile of the country, and there is really very little choice with the exception that farther west the climate is somewhat milder.

If there is ample rainfall, why do you irrigate your lands in some sections?

Irrigation is practiced in Western Canada for the purpose of intensifying crops. Many farms consist of both irrigated and non-irrigated land, proving that where irrigation is an advantage it is not necessary for the production of large crops. Irrigated lands are for the farmer who wishes to follow that class of farming—we have lands adapted to all branches of agriculture.



Potatoes That Cannot Be Surpassed

Where can a settler sell what he raises? Is there any competition among buyers, or does he have to sell his products for anything he can get?

A system of elevators is established by the railway companies and others throughout the entire West. Grain is brought to these and forwarded to the great markets in other parts of Canada, the United States, and Europe. There are in Canada many large flour mills, oatmeal mills, and breweries, which use millions of bushels of grain. To the west and northwest of Central Canada lie world-famed mining regions, which are dependent upon the prairie for supplies and will to a great extent continue to be. Beef is bought on the hoof at the home of the farmer or rancher.

What are the roads like?

Bridges and culverts are built where needed, and roadways are usually graded up, but not graveled or macadamized. Good traveling in ordinary seasons and every fall and winter. Roads are being improved as the country becomes more settled.

Are there any schools outside the towns?

School districts do not exceed five miles in length or breadth and must contain at least four actual residents, and twelve children between the ages of five and sixteen. In almost every locality where these conditions exist the Government has placed schools.

Is there a State Church in Canada; are churches numerous?

There is no state church, but the various denominations are well represented and churches are being built rapidly, even in the most remote districts.

Golden Wheat Fields of the Canadian West—The World's Highest Quality Grain



And SAVE \$5.00 to \$10.00 An Acre

What sort of people are settled there; and is English generally spoken?

The settlers comprise Canadians, English, Scotch, Irish, French, and a large number of English-speaking Americans (who are going into Western Canada in large numbers), with a splendid lot of Germans and Scandinavians. English is the language of the country and is spoken everywhere.

How about American money?

You can take it with you, and have it exchanged when you arrive in Canada, or you can get the same exchanged before you start. American money is taken everywhere in Western Canada at its face value.

Can I get employment with a farmer so as to become acquainted with local conditions?

There is good demand for farm help after the first of April until the first of October. Write to the Department of Colonization and Development, Farm Help Branch, Montreal, who can put you in touch with farmers desiring farm help.

About Cost of Starting, Supplies, Etc.

Can I have my land broken and put in crop for me? What will it cost?

You can contract with an outfit to put your land under cultivation. You can buy land in the spring and have it put in crop for you at once, or in the summer have it plowed and prepared for winter wheat or to be sown the following spring. It will cost about \$13 an acre to break, work, plant, harvest and fence your land. But of this you can figure about \$6 as permanent improvement. Land that has been broken is worth fully this amount more than it was before.

Does the Government tax the settler if he lets his cattle run on the Government lands, and will he get into trouble if his cattle go on land leased by the big ranchers? If they fence their land, is he obliged to fence his also?

The settler is not required to pay tax for allowing his cattle to run on Government land, but it is advisable to lease lands from the Government for haying and grazing purposes, when needed. It seems reasonable that if a settler's quarter-section is in the vicinity or adjoining a rancher's land which he has leased and paid for, that he should object to anyone's cattle running over his property, and vice versa. If one fences his land, his adjoining neighbor has to stand a proportionate share of the cost of the division fence, or build one-half of it himself.

How much money is necessary to start farming in Western Canada?

Any figures given depend upon circumstances. Generally speaking, it may be said that a settler commencing on a quarter or half section will need four good horses, which will cost from \$200 to \$250 a team; double harness, \$50; wagon and box, \$176; wagon rack, \$143.50; walking plow, \$33.25; packer, \$152.60; harrows (Diamond), 4 section, \$23.95; 5 section, \$30.30; (Lever), 3 section, \$41.10; 4 section, \$55.25; disc, \$75.50; hay rake, 32 tooth, 10' spread, \$35.40; binder, 8', \$253.30; various small tools, \$25; one good cow, dairy, \$50 to \$75; provisions for himself and family, about \$200. A habitable house, 18 x 20, one story high, can be built for about \$200. He should also have one breed sow, \$30; and chickens, about \$15. The outfit mentioned will cost about \$1,500, and with it he will be in a position to commence comfortably. Some of the articles mentioned may be dispensed with, or borrowed from neighbors, and some may be purchased second hand at considerable saving.

What will it cost to ship my household goods, farm implements, etc., to Western Canada?

The freight rate on colonist effects per car of 24,000 pounds from Chicago to Calgary, Alberta, is approximately \$118; to Saskatoon, Sask., \$118; to Winnipeg, Manitoba, \$108. These rates are effective only to actual farm settlers and they may enable you to estimate the cost of a car from your town to Western Canada. If you want the exact cost of shipping your effects, obtain the rates from your local railroad agent, or write our nearest office.

Is living expensive?

Living everywhere has gone up in recent years. In Western Canada



Stock Thrive in the Open on Nutritious Native Grasses

it will probably be found to be as cheap as anywhere. The principal increases have been in the prices of butter, meat, eggs, flour, poultry, milk and vegetables—all of which are farm products, so the farmer gains by the increase. Dry goods are approximately at Western United States prices. Cotton goods more expensive than in the United States and woolen goods cheaper. Stoves and furniture are somewhat higher than Eastern prices.

How about taxes?

When the territory now known as Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba was created into provinces of the Dominion of Canada, an agreement was entered into which gives these provinces a large revenue without any form of direct taxation. The Dominion Government agreed to grant to each province, every year, a certain stated sum per head of population, and this grant constitutes the principal source of the revenue of the Provincial Government. It is from this revenue, together with the revenue from school lands already mentioned, that the province is able to bear a share of the cost of educating the children in rural communities, and also to conduct a liberal program of road-building, without imposing taxation upon the settler for these purposes. A moderate taxation is imposed to supplement the government grant towards education and public improvements, but the rate is such that it does not bear heavily upon the settler. No taxes are charged on his improvements; his buildings, machinery, livestock and personal effects are all exempt from taxation. He pays taxes on his land only. This money is spent under the direction of the settlers themselves, through the municipal councils which they elect.

What articles can I take into Canada free of duty?

The following extract from the customs tariff of Canada specifies the articles that can have free entry:

"Settlers' effects, viz.: Wearing apparel, books, usual and reasonable household furniture and other household effects; instruments and tools of trade, occupation or employment; guns, musical instruments, domestic sewing machines, typewriters, bicycles, carts, wagons and other highway vehicles, agricultural implements and live stock for the farm, not to include live stock or articles for sale, or for use as a contractor's outfit, nor machinery for use in any manufacturing establishment; all the foregoing, if actually owned abroad by the settler for at least six months before his removal to Canada, and subject to regulations prescribed by the Minister of Customs; provided that any dutiable article entered as settlers' effects may not be so entered unless brought by the settler on his first arrival, and shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of without payment of duty until after twelve months' actual use in Canada."

A settler may bring into Canada, free of duty, live stock for the farm on the following basis, if he has actually owned such live stock abroad for at least six months before his removal to Canada, and has brought them into Canada within one year after his first arrival, viz.:

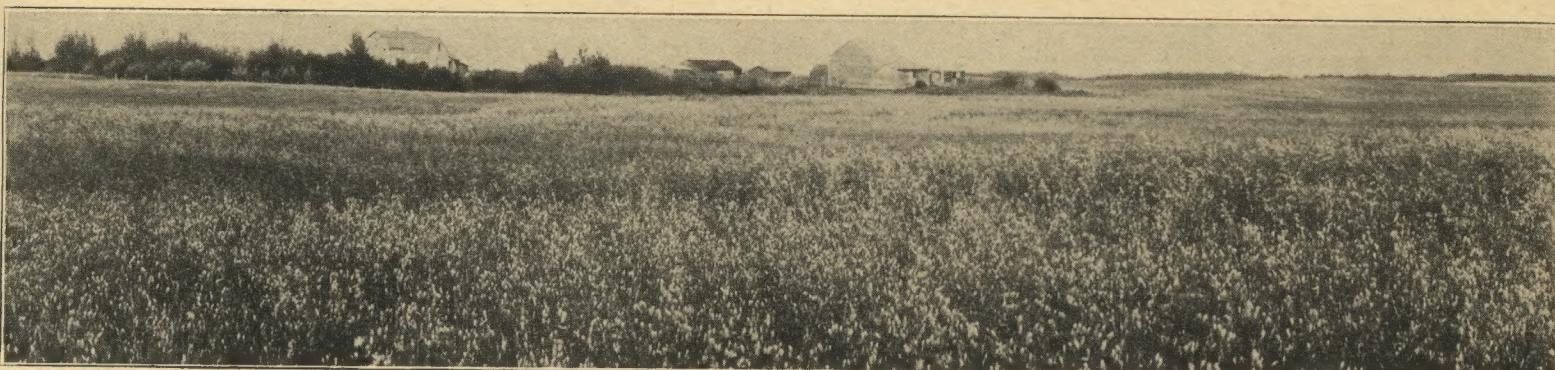
If horses only are brought in, 16 allowed.

If cattle only are brought in, 16 allowed.

If sheep only are brought in, 160 allowed.

If horses, cattle and sheep are brought in together, or part of each, the same proportions as above are to be observed. Swine are subject to quarantine and should not be brought into Canada.

A Land of Peace and Plenty—Mixed Farming in Western Canada





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